

BLACKFOOT FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2004

Blackfoot Fire Department

Meeting Time—6:30 pm

Attendees: Aaron Moon, Chairman, Austin Moses, Clerk, members Tim Fields, Rick Tew, and Kevin Gray, Fire Chief; visitors David Hall and Toby Keith; and Errol Covington and Paul Muirbrook, consultants.

The meeting was called to order and minutes read for the last meeting. Approved and seconded.

The treasurers report was presented and approved.

Old business was discussed. Various purchase orders were reported. A follow-up was requested by the Chairman on the application of funds to purchase some protective clothing.

New business was called for. The Chairman presented Paul Muirbrook, Bingham County Weed Control Officer, and Errol Covington, Bingham County Emergency Management Coordinator. They came to discuss the Bingham County Wild Land/Interface Fire Plan.

Mr. Covington discussed the Assistance Agreement and explained the requirement for a fire plan to the District Commissioners. He asked the commissioners to become part of the Interagency Fire Planning Group which they readily agreed to. It was explained that this agreement does not, at present, offer any funding for projects, but that when funding does become available, the plan is essential to obtaining funding.

Mr. Muirbrook displayed a county map showing areas of prior wild land burns. He then asked the Board to identify areas within the Fire District that have the potential for interface fires. This was accomplished by circling areas on the map where dwellings interface with grasses, trees and brush.

Each area was discussed and preventative measures were discussed. Some of those include the following:

1. Training—all agreed that additional training for fire fighters and volunteers is essential.
2. Public Education
3. Additional Equipment—the need for at least one additional brush truck was identified. More light turnouts and respirators are also needed.
4. An examination of zoning laws especially pertaining to construction in interface areas. It was suggested that prospective home builders be required to watch a video, or study materials pertaining to “defensible space” and fire-retardant building materials.
5. An educational program needs to be initiated with existing home owners to educate them to the dangers of not taking preventative actions.